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Letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to draw your attention to the dramatic situation in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, which is worsening with every passing day. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has repeatedly warned the Security Council of systematic and deliberate violations of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 by the international security (KFOR) and civil (UNMIK) presences, which is compounded by their collusion with the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in harassing the residents of this Serbian province, in particular the non-Albanians.

The ever more frequent instances of the harassment were reported also by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* on 16 and 17 September, respectively (see enclosed articles). According to the reports, the [United States] "Army is preparing to release an investigative report saying that several members of the 82nd Airborne Division on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo beat, threatened and assaulted civilians".

Considering the gravity of the situation and the danger implied in these illegal acts of the international presences, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that the report be made available to the Security Council, so that it can consider the implementation of the mandate of the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija without delay and take measures to bring those responsible to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex I to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

THE NEW YORK TIMES **INTERNATIONAL** SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2000

Army to Report on Beatings by G.I.'s in Kosovo

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15 (AP) — The Army is preparing to release an investigative report saying that several members of the 82nd Airborne Division on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo beat, threatened and assaulted civilians, officials said today.

The formerly classified report also raises questions about the adequacy of the training these military personnel received in preparation for peacekeeping duty, the officials said.

They discussed the issue on condition that they not be identified.

The central conclusions of the report were publicly disclosed during the trial in Germany of Staff Sgt. Frank Ronghi, who was sentenced in August to life in prison with no possibility of parole for the sodomy, rape and murder of an 11-year-old Kosovo Albanian girl.

ABC News reported today that it had obtained a copy of the report.

The most sensational conclusion in the document — that several members of Sergeant Ronghi's platoon in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment beat, threatened and illegally detained civilians in Kosovo — was publicly disclosed by government attorneys in Sergeant Ronghi's trial.

These acts were accepted as fact by both the prosecution and the defense, but the report itself was not made public because it contained classified information.

The Army has removed the classified material and will release an edited copy of the report on Monday, the officials said.

Earlier this year, the offenders were given punishment that included reduction in rank and forfeiture of pay — but not imprisonment. They are based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The actions they were accused of in the report include an incident in which an American lieutenant and a noncommissioned officer, along with Sergeant Ronghi, took two Albanian brothers to an abandoned warehouse and beat them. The lieutenant held a gun to the back of one of the brothers' heads and asked him if he wanted to die.

The American soldiers were part of the 50,000-strong NATO-led peacekeeping contingent sent into Kosovo last year, after the alliance's 78-day bombing campaign to force President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia to halt Serbs' violence against the ethnic Albanian majority in the province.

Books of The Times: Weekdays

Annex II to the letter dated 18 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Washington Post -Sunday September 17,2000

NATIONAL NEWS

Army Report Says Soldiers Abused Civilians in Kosovo

Associated Press

The Army is preparing to release an investigative report saying that several members of the 82nd Airborne Division on peacekeeping duty in Kosovo beat, threatened and assaulted civilians, officials said Friday.

The formerly classified report also raises questions about the kinds of training these men received in preparation for peacekeeping duty, the officials said. They discussed the matter on the condition they not be identified.

The central conclusions of the report were publicly disclosed during the trial in Germany of Staff Sgt. Frank Ronghi, who was sentenced in August to life in prison with no chance for parole for the murder, sodomy and rape of an 11-year-old Kosovo Albanian girl.

The most sensational conclusion of the report—that several members of Ronghi's platoon in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment beat, threatened and illegally detained civilians in Kosovo—was publicly disclosed by government attorneys in the Ronghi trial. These acts were accepted as fact by both the prosecution and the defense, but the report itself was not made public because it contained classified information.

The Army has removed the classified material and will release a redacted copy of the report Monday, officials said. The men accused of the misbehavior were punished—though not jailed—this year. They are based at Fort Bragg, N.C.